

"We have to face our present fiscal crisis squarely and with courage."

Washington, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence gave the following statement on the House floor today during debate on H.R. 1, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011:

"After years of runaway federal spending by both political parties, last year, House Republicans took the Pledge.

"We said to the American people, 'Give us another chance to lead this Congress, and the first thing we'll do is reduce domestic spending to pre-bailout, pre-stimulus levels saving the American people at least \$100 billion.'

"And today, simply put, this new majority will keep our word with the American people. And in Washington, D.C., that's saying a lot.

"Now, we'll consider H.R. 1, which will save at least \$100 billion dollars in this fiscal year. It is in fact the single largest rescission package in the history of this Congress. With a \$14 trillion national debt and a \$1.5 trillion deficit this year, cutting \$100 billion will not solve our fiscal crisis but it's a good start, and it's a promise kept. And here in Washington, D.C., that's really saying something. Now to save our nation from an avalanche of debt facing future generations, we must just do a couple of basic things.

"First, we've got to stop what we've been doing - piling a mountain range of debt on our children and grandchildren.

"We've got to turn around and we've got to begin to head in the other direction.

"We have to face our present fiscal crisis squarely and with courage.

"And today, this new Republican majority will do just that. We'll begin the process of turning our ship of state back toward that horizon of fiscal responsibility and fiscal solvency and sustainability for generations to come.

"I urge my colleagues in both political parties - join us in this important first step. Join us in this important promise kept. Work with us and we will work with you to put our nation on a pathway toward fiscal solvency and ultimately lay a foundation for real economic growth for generations to come."